IDW

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MUDRON

my LITTLE PONY
FRIENDS FOREVER

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Great cinnamon sticks! Pinkie Pie, ***WHAT*** are you doing?

I've memorized ***all*** the recipes in the Sugarcube Corner cookbook!

I am gonna ***DESTROY*** everyone else at the Equestria Super Chef Competition!

IT'LL BE **TOTAL DESSERT DOMINATION!!**

THIS!

IS GONNA BE THE **greatest day ever**

=nom=

=nom=

But ***HOW*** can I get to the Hedge Maze Center without all this ***KNOWLEDGE*** sloshing out of my brain?

Pinkie, are you planning to ***CLEAN UP*** this mess?

LATER!

Cooking stardom awaits!

TIP TIP

Now, where in the blazes is the ***BACKSTAGE ENTRANCE?***

IF that's even what Granny Smith's note says. Her hoofwriting's like watchin' a spider do the polka after fallin' in an ink-puddle.

And why is Pinkie Pie walking like the sky is about to fall?

Oh well. Better get this pie delivered while it's still--

must... not... spill... recipes..!

SPROING

Oh--

OH--

OH

NO!

Pardon me!

Comin' through!

'Scuse me!

WHUMP

Come to Applejack, little pie!

Just a mite further--

AAH--

FRUIT

YES!

If anypony's looking for the ***BEST ATHLETE*** in all Equestria--

Hey! My tent!

--She's ***RIGHT HERE!***

You're late! Come on, I'll take you around to the stage door.

Oh, thank you kindly!

I got ***NUMBER FIVE,*** and we're moving--

I admit I was havin' some trouble findin' my way around here!

Great. Number Four just showed up and we're good to go in **5...**

4...

JUDGES

3...

2...

1

Fillies and gentlecolts, put your hooves together for the ***NINTH ANNUAL EQUESTRIA SUPER CHEF*** contestants!

This year's theme is ***DESSERTS***, and with only ***THREE ROUNDS*** to decide which pony trots off with the ***50,000*** bit prize--

THE PIE'S THE LIMIT!

By Alex de Campi & Carla Speed McNeil!

Colors by Jenn Manley Lee & Bill Mudron!

So who's signin' fer this pie? I can't read Granny Smith's hoofwritin--

Hey! I need a hoof with these lights!

≥ugh!≤

Just go over to Table Five and wait! I'll be right with you.

And, as always, providing you in the back with a magical close-up & personal view of the action, it's our very own

JUMBO DON!

Friends, you can call me Don.

LADIES, you can call me ***ANYTIME***.

And ***NOW***, let's meet our contestants!

From Manehattan, it's...

SUMMER VAN DER HOOF!

EXCLUSIVE cuisine for **EXCLUSIVE** ponies, darlings!

=flip=

From Las Pegasus, it's...

BLADE SPARXX!

Hey bros! You ready to **FIRE** up your appetites?!

From Dodge City, it's...

TOFFEE TRUFFLE!

Sweet treats from **MY** family to **YOURS!**

From right here in Ponyville, it's hometown girl...

Oooh! **OOOH!**

Here she is! I'm so excited I could **FAINT!**

C'mon, Pinkie! Do us **PROUD!**

...PINKIE PIE!

=ut.=

UH! Hang on a sec!

My name's APPLEJACK an' I'm just here to deliver a pie!

And last, from distant Gallopvania, the mysterious food performance artist...

MARINE SANDWICH!

ROUND ONE

Our judges will now evaluate the dishes the contestants have brought with them!

No, really! I'm NOT this Marine What-ever-you-said!

WHAT?!

IMPOSTOR!

OH NO! I didn't bring anything!

I was so busy remembering RECIPES, I forgot my CUPCAKES!

Move aside!

OUT of my way!

I am the REAL Marine Sandwich!

Let me in THIS INSTANT!

STAGE

And STAY out!

OOF!

NOBODY messes with Marine Sandwich!

I am the GREATEST GOURMET ARTIST Equestria has ever known!

And YOU, who shamed me...

YOU will become my latest MASTERPIECE!

Maybe I can make something super quick!

Ooh, Pinkie!

xxx

Think! THINK!!

Here come the JUDGES!

GAAH! I can't think!

How do you cook?

What is rain?

Why do birds sing?

HA HA HA

AND WITH A SURPRISINGLY SIMPLE APPLE PIE, CONCEPTUAL FOOD PRANKSTER MARINE SANDWICH WINS ROUND ONE!

I **LOVE** how you're pretending to go **COUNTRY**, Marine! **SO** unexpected!

Mmmm!

Dibs on that last piece!

≥sigh≤

INTER-MISSION

doop

doopy

doop

doop

Pinkie, I am so sorry! They jes' won't **LISTEN!** I don't even wanna be **IN** this contest. There's so much to be gettin' on with back at the farm--

It's okay, Applejack! You **DO** make the best apple pie in all of Ponyville.

≥sob!≤

HUH?!

≥snif≤

OH! Hi...

You're Toffee, right?

Are you okay?

I-I'm fine.

I'm just really nervous. This is a lot more **SCARY** than I thought it would be.

You're telling me! I forgot every recipe I ever knew as soon as that spotlight hit me!

≥POOF!≤ All gone!

And I really wanted to **WIN** so I could reopen Dodge City's restaurant!

WAIT, the Cherry Pit closed down? I used to love that place when I was visitin' my kin!

YEP!

Miss Bertie retired, and now families don't have anywhere to go for a treat!

You thinkin' what *I'M* thinkin'?

I *THINK* so, brain!

(Whut?)

Don't worry, Toffee! You get back up there and cook like you do for your ***BEST*** friends!

Thanks! I will.

See you in a bit! We're off to gather some ***SPECIAL*** ingredients!

Okay!

What's ***REALLY*** special?

First one to the garbage gets the **ROTTEN EGGS!**

Y'all don't mind if I jes' dig up some worms, do ya?

It's nouvelle cuisine.

Go on ahead, Miss Sandwich!

FAKER! THIEF!! I'll make you--

STAGE

WHOMP

--HRRRNGH!

ROUND TWO

Something with CHOCOLATE!

=skritch=

=skrib=

=skribble=

=skrib=

SNIFF

CLAT CLAT

NUM NUM

This here's ROCKY ROAD!

Ah made it out of rocks and dirt from the road!

An' some WORMS for extra protein!

(Y'know, because desserts are not all that nutritious.)

Oh...!

MY.

It uses the most EXCLUSIVE single-estate chocolate and tiny, REAL gems--

And what do we call THIS?

Chocolate-dipped PICKLES stuffed with bleu cheese wrapped in GARBAGE SURPRISE!

Ah.

=munch=

=munch=

Vermouth, honey, y'all come try THIS one! It's DEE-LISH!

I call it, "Blade's Chocolate Flame-Boom"!

!

!

A *DAZZLING* deconstruction of the dessert genre!

Pushes the frontiers of haute gastronomie in a *BOLD* new direction!

Vermouth Roux has spoken.

Awww.

I really liked the parfait.

Ow! *Ouch!*

HELP!

The winner of Round Two,

PIIIINKIE PIE!

What?

SERIOUSLY?!

What do you have to do to *LOSE* this thing?

SHRUG

Guys... thanks for trying to help but...

I don't want you to *LET* me win. I want to *BEAT* you fair and square!

I mean, how would *YOU* feel if there was something you were *GREAT* at doing... but people felt *BAD* for you so they bent the rules to make it easier for you?

That would mean ponies didn't really find my jokes ***FUNNY!*** They'd only be laughing to make me feel better!

That would make me feel so ***NOT*** better!

And all my ***RODEO RIBBONS*** would be... not worth the ribbon they're printed on!

You're right, Toffee! May the ***BEST*** pony win!

As long as that pony's ***ME!***

Or ***ME!***

Ya know, ever since I stopped caring about winning, I'm having a ***LOT*** more ***FUN!***

ROUND THREE

Make--

--Your ***FAVORITE*** recipe.

M-MY favorite?

Um... ***UPPER CRUST*** says strawberries are in this year!

FANCY PANTS says black apple-root mushrooms are the rarest and most exclusive food there is!

PRINCESS MI AMORE CADENZA thinks lemongrass is making a comeback!

SAPPHIRE SHORES loves honey!

FILTHY RICH was seen eating a creme de menthe sundae!

Oh! And ***PHOTO FINISH*** loves sauer-kraut!

I call this, "Blade's ***GIANT*** Flame-Boom"!

And ***HOW*** is this different from your previous dish?

More ***FIRE!***

Obviously.

This here's an ***APPLE***, washed in cold water.

I planted the tree it came from, on our farm.

I pruned it, fed it, and harvested it.

Apples are my favorite thing, and in all of Equestria, there's ***NONE BETTER*** than my family's.

BORING!

And you?

I'm gonna show you!

But ***FIRST***, you have to say, "I want a ***SURPRISE!***"

Darling, I ***CRAVE*** surprises above all things.

Alas, it is my curse, never to receive them.

=eye-roll=

SURPRISE!

PAFF

I love custard pies yes I do!

You can throw them in a face!

GET AWAY!

You can eat 'em at the zoo!

I love custard pies! Woo woo woo!

NO!!

Y'all are missing out! This is one ***YUMMY*** custard pie!

≥sigh≤

PLEASE tell me you have cooked a normal, edible dessert, that won't ***BURN*** us, be ***THROWN*** at us, or otherwise ***INCONVENIENCE*** us.

Dulce de Leche in sugar-cookie cups!

My mom always made these on ***SPECIAL*** occasions.

They taste like *HAPPINESS* :D

Oooh!

EXCELLENT presentation!

Mm-*mm!*

BAM

Don't forget *MY* entry!

I call *THIS* one--

ZZZOT!

--"FONDANT FOOLS"!

=krackle=

=fzzt=

Don! Keep rolling!

Think of the RATINGS!

krackle

WOOSH

SKWA

HA HA HA HA!

Y'all LITTLE BITTIES just stay back o' BIG ANGIE, now.

Not cool, bro! Not cool AT ALL!

SKRASH

NO! Not my black apple-root mushroom!

It was featured on the cover of Hoof & Mouth Magazine!

Quick, Pinkie! Sling me some o'those **PIES!**

Coming right up, Applejack!

BOMBS AWAY!

HA!

You can't stop **MARINE SANDWICH** with cheap shots!

Soon you'll **PAY** for impersonating me, frozen in icing, **FOREVER!**

Hurry up, Applejack! we're running out of pies!

I'm **HURRYIN'**, trust me!

OH NO!

=snik=

ZOOOOSH

Toffee, what are we going to DO?!

I have all this CARAMEL...

...if we only had a PORTABLE PARTY CANNON!

GEE!

=rustle=

Why didn't you SAY so?

=rustle=

Z€R Mark IV okay? It's the first one I could find.

That'll do just FINE!

WHOMP

We only have ONE shot at this!

OOOOOH!

ZOSH

WAD WAD

Hey, Blade! Could we have some **FIRE** over here?

HAPPY to oblige, gals!

FOOM

KA-BOOM!

DUNK

HA!

You **MISSED!**

No we **DIDN'T!**

We weren't aiming for **YOU!**

EWEY GOOEY CARAMEL KABLOOEY!

GLUK
GLUK
KLUNK

Huh?

UT-O!

krackle

Now *THAT'S* what I call--

just desserts!

Er, guys?

A little *HELP* here?

No probs, good buddy!

Thanks, Pinkie!

I gotta hand it to ol' Marine What's-her-name. This icing is preeeety tasty!

=nom= =nom=

But it's **NOT** our winning dessert.

=slurp=

THAT honor goes to the competitor whose final dish proved both ***DELICIOUS*** and ***PRACTICAL***--

--TOFFEE TRUFFLE!

Vermouth Roux has spoken.

Abso-lutely!

And for once, she's ***RIGHT!***

THANKS!

But I couldn't have done it without help from my new ***FRIENDS!***

Hey, Toff! Your ***NEW RESTAURANT*** is gonna need ***APPLES***, right?

THE END!

NEXT MONTH:
ISSUE #2

my LITTLE PONY
FRIENDS FOREVER